

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SY-04 L-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 PA-04 SP-03

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R 161034Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1631

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 1867

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, HU

SUBJ: FURTHER STEPS IN TRAVEL FACILITATION

REF: A) BUDAPEST 1655

B) BUDAPEST 680

1. ACTION REQUESTED: DURING OUR CONVERSATIONS ON IMPROVING BORDER ARRANGEMENTS DEP FOREIGN MINISTER NAGY TWICE INDICATED THAT GOH WAS STILL PREPARED TO DISPENSE WITH CLOSED AREAS (REFTEL B). IN LAST CONVERSATION IN RESPONSE TO OUR REFERENCE TO LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED FOR OFFICIAL VISAS (14 DAYS), HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD REDUCE THAT TIME. BOTH THESE MEASURES WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL NEXT STEPS IN REMOVING IMPEDIMENTS IN OUR RELATIONS AND I URGE THAT DEPT AUTHORIZE US TO PROPOSE THEM TO GOH. BEST TIMING ON CLOSED AREAS WOULD BE EARLY SEPT, AS FOLLOW-UP OF SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST RECENT DECISION ON BORDER FORMALITIES.

2. CLOSED AREAS: WE PRESUME THAT RECENT US-POLISH MUTUAL ABOLITION INDICATES THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS ARE NO LONGER DOMINANT RE CLOSED AREAS -- AT LEAST FOR EE'S OTHER THAN USSR -- AND THAT RESTRICTIONS CAN BE MUTUALLY ELIMINATED WHEN IT IS POLITICALLY APPROPRIATE. I DID NOT  
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REACT TO NAGY'S COMMENTS, BUT NOW THAT AGREEMENT TO

ELIMINATE CLOSED AREAS HAS BEEN REACHED WITH POLAND (WHICH GOH IS AWARE OF) AND WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN HUNGARY IN ELIMINATING BORDER REDTAPE FOR GOVT OFFICIALS, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN INTERESTS OF PROGRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH GOH TO PROPOSE CLOSED AREA ELIMINATION AS NEXT STEP. (WE DO NOT THINK GOH WILL OFFICIALLY TAKE THE INITIATIVE.) ELIMINATING THIS REMNANT FROM TIME OF POOR US- HUNGARIAN RELATIONS WOULD BE OF GENERAL UTILITY IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS. REMOVAL OF CLOSED AREAS IN HUNGARY WOULD ALSO BE A HELPFUL AID TO COLLECTION OF MILITARY INFORMATION HERE, WITH RESPECT TO MBFR AND MORE BROADLY AS WELL. OUR EXTENSIVE CHECKING ON PERSISTENTLY RUMORED SOV MILITARY INCREASES AND DEPLOYMENTS THIS YEAR HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY FACT NUMBER OF KEY AREAS POTENTIALLY INVOLVED ARE OFF LIMITS TO US. I ACCORDINGLY RECOMMEND DEPT AUTHORIZE US TO PROPOSE MUTUAL ABOLITION OF CLOSED AREAS WITH HUNGARY. EARLY IN SEPT WOULD SEEM TO US TO BE AN OPTIMUM TIME FOR THIS STEP TO CONTRIBUTE TO FORWARD MEMENTUM IN RELATIONS.

3. SPEEDING UP OFFICIAL VISAS: WHILE A SMALL STEP, I ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL -- AND WOULD CERTAINLY ELIMINATE A LOT OF DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE WITH GOH IN GETTING VISAS FOR THE MANY US OFFICIALS WHO APPLY LATE -- IF WE COULD BOTH AGREE NORMALLY TO PROCESS OFFICIAL VISAS WITHIN 7 CALENDAR DAYS INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT 14. NAGY TOLD ME THAT GOH COULD ACT THAT RAPIDLY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS AN INFORMAL, US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON 7-DAY ISSUANCE OF VISAS SO I ASSUME WE HAVE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY OF DOING THIS. IT WOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM FOR MY CONSULAR SECTION, PROVIDED THE DEPT CAN ASSURE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF OUR VISAS BEAR MESSAGES OR GIVE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE A, G AND C-3 VISAS TO HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS IF NO REPLY IS RECEIVED TO A VISAS BEAR BY SEVENTH DAY. IF DEPT AGREEABLE TO US MAKING SUCH A 7-DAY NORMAL OFFICIAL VISA TIME SUGGESTION TO GOH, I WOULD LIKE TO GO AHEAD ON THIS POINT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. ELIMINATION OF "ANNOUNCING IN AND OUT" PROCEDURES HAS PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO THINK CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT ON BORDER FORMALITIES WILL WORK WELL.  
PEDERSEN

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## Message Attributes

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